



File Code: 6320

Date: March 13, 2017

To: Interested Parties

Re: **U.S. Forest Service, Northern Region (R1)**
R1 Mechanical Thinning IDIQs
Solicitation No. AG-0343-S-17-0027

This letter contains important information for contractors who are interested in submitting a quote on this project.

Background Information:

The U.S. Forest Service, Northern Region has a recurring need for mechanical tree thinning and stand improvement services to reduce accumulations of hazardous fuels. These activities may include reducing leave tree densities by the deliberate selection of trees to be removed from the site based upon silvicultural prescriptions; piling of naturally occurring and harvest related fuels; chipping and/or mastication; and other fuels reduction related activities. The desired outcome of these activities is to improve the overall health and condition of the stands by providing more space for the leave trees to grow and develop, therefore reducing the risk of insect infestations and disease outbreaks, and reduce the potential for wildfires to transition into crown fires. It is anticipated that this work will be completed with conventional logging systems or heavy equipment with some of the work completed by hand.

Project Information:

The US Forest Service, Northern Region Acquisition Management Office anticipates awarding several multiple-award contracts to multiple contractors to provide mechanical thinning services. Contractors receiving a contract award may compete on subsequent Task Orders that may be issued for any National Forest or Grassland in the Northern Region of the U.S. Forest Service (Montana, northern Idaho, and portions of North and South Dakota).

The information that follows is presented with the intention of helping you be prepared to respond to the solicitation for this project should you choose to do so.

Project Advertisement: The Forest Service advertises procurement contracts on the FedBizOpps (FBO) website.

- Recommended Action #1: Visit www.fedbizopps.gov and search for the “R1 Mechanical Thinning IDIQs”. Once you find it, you may choose to sign up for automatic updates about the project that will be sent directly to your email. A direct link to the FBO announcement is provided here:

<https://www.fbo.gov/spg/USDA/FS/343/AG-0343-S-17-0027/listing.html>



- Suggested Action #2: If you are interested in receiving automatic notifications of other new procurements from FBO, you can create a profile that is specific to your needs on the FBO website. There are a variety of ways to tailor your profile, including type of work, location of work, or federal agency. For example, you could tailor your profile to receive information only on U.S. Forest Service “Logging” projects (NAICS code 113310) and/or “Support Activities for Forestry” projects (NAICS code 115310). The project that is the subject of this letter will be identified with the NAICS code 115310.

**The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) identifies all products and services with a 6 digit numerical code. This number is useful in categorizing work for many purposes, including advertisement of projects like this one. If you are interested in other types of work categories, visit the NAICS.com website. A link to the 2017 revision of work categories is provided here:*
<https://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2017>

- Suggested Action #3: If you are interested in other contracting opportunities, contact your local Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). The nation-wide PTAC website is <http://www.ptac-us.org>. Click on the “Find-a-PTAC” link to locate a PTAC office in your state. The PTAC offices in Montana have provided valuable help to many local contractors. In Montana, there are PTAC offices in Missoula, Kalispell, Ronan, Hamilton, Lewistown, Great Falls, Butte, Bozeman and Billings. PTAC also has offices in Boise, Idaho and at several locations in North and South Dakota. The services provided by PTAC are free.

Business Preparation Activities: In order to prepare your business to compete for, and possibly receive a federal contract award, several administrative tasks must be accomplished. Please note that your local Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) can help you with these tasks:

- Get a D-U-N-S number.
- Register in the System for Award Management (SAM).
- If you are a HUBZone small business, Service-Disabled-Veteran-Owned small business, or an 8(a) small business, discuss this status with the local PTAC office when registering in CCR and ORCA.

If you have questions regarding this letter, I may be contacted at lebner@fs.fed.us.



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U.S. Forest Service, Northern Region (R1)

Cc: Solicitation File